



# Fair Haven Community Health Care

## Locations

374 Grand Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06513

50 Grand Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06513

150 Sargent Drive  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203.777.7411

**Bella Vista**  
339 Eastern Street, Building B  
New Haven, CT 06513  
203.469.5331

**Shoreline Family Health Care**  
221 West Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405  
203.871.4188

**MAAS**  
426 East Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203.495.7710

**BHcare**  
14 Sycamore Way  
Branford, CT 06405  
203.483.2630

## New Haven School Based Health Centers

Bishop Woods School  
Clinton Avenue School  
Fair Haven K-8 School  
John S. Martinez School  
Wilbur Cross High School  
Family Academy of  
Multilingual Exploration

## East Haven School Based Health Centers

Joseph Melillo Middle School  
East Haven High School

## Branford School Based Health Centers

Mary R. Tisko Elementary  
School  
John B. Sliney Elementary  
School

[fhchc.org](http://fhchc.org)

## Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6616:

### “AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS”

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Benjamin Oldfield, MD MHS; I am a pediatrician, internist, and the Vice President for Clinical Affairs at Fair Haven Community Health Care, a federally qualified health center in New Haven, CT. We care for over 31,000 patients annually, about one fifth of whom are uninsured currently due to their immigration status.

I stand in enthusiastic support of HB 6616: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY for all residents regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. Our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 13; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

In my clinical practice, and in overseeing our clinic's operations, I see each day the enormous benefit that HUSKY provides a large portion of the patients and families we serve. Yet I also experience the challenges of providing care to uninsured individuals, including young people, who do not have this benefit merely by virtue of where they were born. Just yesterday, I gave a patient a new diagnosis of HIV, and our team had to go to great lengths to provide him life-saving medication because his documentation status made him ineligible for HUSKY.

This type of “tiered” health system—where some have insurance and many do not—ultimately affects us all. The pandemic has taught us this over, and over again. If we do not provide coverage to all individuals—for vaccinations, for addiction treatment, for cancer prevention, for behavioral health—the health of Connecticut's communities suffers, care becomes more costly, and deep pathologies are not addressed.

I support HB 6616, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation to open access to all community members in Connecticut regardless of age or status.

Thank you for your time,

Benjamin Oldfield, MD MHS  
Internist, Pediatrician, and Vice President for Clinical Affairs  
Fair Haven Community Health Care